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City Wins Lawsuit Brought Against Police Department

For Immediate Release
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(January 21, 2005- TROY)- A jury in Federal Court acquitted the City of Troy and Police Officer Sean Kittle of any wrongdoing Thursday evening in an alleged police brutality case.

Robert Carrisquillo had sued the City of Troy and Kittle for \$2.8 million. He will receive no compensation after ten hours of jury deliberation ended the two-week trial and found the actions of Kittle to be within his rights as a police officer.

On July 3 2001, Kittle observed what he thought was a drug transaction occurring while on patrol. He approached the two individuals who then split up as the officer advanced. Kittle eventually stopped Carrisquillo and questioned him about his actions. Carrisquillo refused to answer questions from Officer Kittle, including his name and address, and Kittle attempted to place the man under arrest for false personation. A scuffle ensued after Carrisquillo attempted to strike Kittle, and during the course of that altercation Carrisquillo obtained multiple injuries. He was then charged with resisting arrest.

Carrisquillo brought 18 causes of action against the City of Troy and Officer Kittle. Sixteen of those actions were thrown out by a judge, and the final two, centering on the use of excessive force, were found to be untrue by a jury on Thursday.

City Corporation Counsel David Mitchell and Albany Attorney John Bailey defended the City during the trial.

"We are pleased that Officer Kittle and the City of Troy were exonerated in this case," Mayor Harry J Tutunjian said. "And I want to thank Corporation Counsel Mitchell and the legal office of the City for seeing that this fallacious claim did not financially impact the residents of Troy."

Mitchell said that the two-week trial contained an extreme amount of information and evidence, and he praised the jury for its verdict.

"I would like to thank the jury for their verdict, they had a monumental task and a mountain of evidence to sift through," Mitchell said. "Officer Kittle is a highly trained officer who is dedicated to making the City safe. He can now put this behind him and take comfort in knowing that a Federal jury has concluded that his actions as a police officer were appropriate."